



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Lava Beds
National Monument

PO Box 1240
Tulelake, CA 96134

Mike Reynolds
Superintendent
530-667-8101
mike_reynolds@nps.gov

Lava Beds National Monument News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 25, 2014

Lava Beds Plays Important Role in Annual Christmas Bird Count

TULELAKE, California— Starting next week, and through the holiday season, citizen scientists will once again fan out across America and America's national parks to count birds. One of the longest running citizen science events in the world, the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) began in 1900. It provides reliable data that help demonstrate the importance of national parks to birds.

You too can participate in this fulfilling event. Lava Beds National Monument will host the Tulelake Christmas Bird Count on Sunday, January 4, 2015. "This chilly, but fun, adventure in wildlife watching is open to all, for all or part of the day, with a potluck held afterwards!" says Chief of Resources, Nancy Nordensten. All interested parties can contact her at nancy_nordensten@nps.gov for more information.

National parks in almost every state will host bird counts again this year. The parks, with more than 40 listed by Audubon as Important Bird Areas, provide essential habitat for one or more species of breeding, wintering, and/or migrating birds.

Christmas Bird Counts also help inform the national State of the Birds Report that can be found at www.stateofthebirds.org.

"Because the 'state of the birds' mirrors the state of their habitats, our national parks and seashores, and other public lands are critical safe havens for many species—especially in the face of climate change—one of the biggest challenges to habitat conservation for all species in the 21st century," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "The citizen science Christmas Bird Count is one of the ways we stay informed and involved with important partners like Audubon."

“People who count birds are helping save birds,” said Audubon Chief Scientist Gary Langham. “And America’s national parks are magnificent places to participate in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. We’re grateful to all the volunteers who make the count possible every year.”

The National Park Service makes a meaningful difference—and not just for birds. While the primary point of the bird count is to gather data about trends and the general health of bird population, which informs management decisions and scientific studies, another benefit of this enormous citizen science program is the important way it gains advocates and new enthusiasts for birds. “The National Park Service provides quality opportunities for people of all ages and skill levels to engage in this activity with a meaningful outcome,” said National Park Service Chief Wildlife Biologist Glenn Plumb.

Each year, the CBC mobilizes more than 70,000 volunteers in more than 2,400 locations. The 2014-15 count dates fall between December 14th and January 5th. When compiled, the results will be posted at <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>.

Some of the national parks hosting Christmas Bird Counts include:

DATE	PARK
Dec 14, 2014	Yosemite National Park , Wind Cave National Park , Congaree National Park , Biscayne National Park , Sequoia National Park , and Glacier National Park
Dec 15	Badlands National Park
Dec 20	North Cascades National Park and Zion National Park
Dec 27	Cape Hatteras National Seashore
Dec 29	Everglades National Park
Jan 3, 2015	Hot Springs National Park and Great Sand Dunes National Park
January 4	Lava Beds National Monument
January 10	Point Reyes National Seashore (for kids!)
Parks that traditionally host CBC's but have not yet publicized the	Klondike Goldrush National Historical Park , Death Valley National Park , Chaco Culture National Historical Park , Lassen Volcanic National Park , Petrified Forest National Park , Glen Canyon National

date include:	Recreation Area , Yellowstone National Park , and Big Bend National Park
---------------	--

* * *

Lava Beds National Monument, established in 1925, is a land of turmoil, both geologic and historic. Over the last half-million years, volcanic eruptions have created a rugged landscape dotted with diverse volcanic features. Lava tube caves, Native American sites, historic battlefields and a high desert wilderness experience await you!

For more information about visiting Lava Beds National Monument, call 530-667-8113, email labe_interpretation@nps.gov, or go to www.nps.gov/labe. Like us on Facebook; follow us on Twitter!

About the National Park Service: More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/nationalparkservice, Twitter www.twitter.com/natlpservice, and YouTube www.youtube.com/nationalparkservice.

About the Christmas Bird Count: The Christmas Bird Count is a long-standing program of the National Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. It is an early-winter bird census, where thousands of volunteers across the US, Canada, and many countries in the Western Hemisphere go out over a 24-hour period to count birds. For more information, please visit <http://birds.audubon.org/fag/cbc>.

-NPS-